

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary

Claims 11-19 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 16 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The amended claims are based on the specification. Claim 11-19 are pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Friedman (U.S. Patent No. 4,715,955). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have amended claims 11, 16 and 18.

Amended claims 11, 16 and 18 recites “wherein the first filtrate channel includes a first longitudinal portion that is parallel to the feed channel and a first transverse portion on a first declining acute angle that communicates with a first filtrate passage; the second filtrate channel includes a second longitudinal portion that is parallel to the retentate channel and a second transverse portion on a second declining acute angle that communicates with a second filtrate passage.” The structure of amended claims 11, 16 and 18 provide a filtration device where the first longitudinal portion is parallel to the feed channel and a first transverse portion on a first declining acute angle that communicates with a first filtrate passage channel. Also, the structure of amended claims 11, 16 and 18 provide the filtration device

where the second longitudinal portion is parallel to the retentate channel and a transverse portion on a declining acute angle that communicates with the second filtrate passage channel. (Specification page 14, lines 5-14). The declining acute angles of the first and second transverse portions allows fluid to flow out easily through a hole of the filtration device.

Friedman provides “a filtration apparatus including a filtration module having an axially stacked plurality of filter membrane sheets with the module defining a stack of fluid flow chambers having multi-edged perimeters and disposed on opposite sides of and substantially co-extensive with each membrane sheet. The perimeters of the membrane sheets and the chambers are sealed such that fluid flow between adjacent chambers must pass through a membrane sheet straddled thereby. Also defined by the module are a plurality of feed passages communicating with alternating ones of the chambers adjacent first axially aligned edges thereof, a plurality of retentate passages communicating with the alternating chambers adjacent to second axially aligned edges thereof opposite to the first edges, and a plurality of filtrate passage means communicating with other ones of the chambers between the alternating ones thereof and with the filtrate passage means entering the other chambers adjacent to either the first or second aligned edges.” (Column 1, lines 34-55).

Also, as the Examiner stated “As shown in FIG. 4, the transverse filtrate channel portions 52, 54 from acute angles with an upper surface 55 of the end plate 13. Outer ends of the longitudinal filtrate channel portions 51, 53 terminate, respectively, with outlet ports 56, 57 in the sidewall 37 of the end plate 14.” (Column

4, lines 19-24).” (Office action, page 2, lines 21-24). However, Friedman does not suggest, anticipate or disclose that it provides a filtration device where the first longitudinal portion is parallel to the feed channel and a first transverse portion on a first declining acute angle that communicates with a first filtrate passage channel. Also, Friedman does not suggest anticipate or disclose that it provides the filtration device where the second longitudinal portion is parallel to the retentate channel and a second transverse portion on a second declining acute angle that communicates with the second filtrate passage channel. The declining acute angles of the first and second transverse portions allows fluid to flow out easily through a hole of the filtration device.

In fact, as the Examiner recited, Friedman only discloses that the transverse filtrate channel portions 52, 54 from acute angles with an upper surface 55 of the end plate, but there is no disclosure of a first and second transverse portions on a first and second declining acute angles that communicates with a first filtrate passage channel and a second filtrate passage channel to allow fluid to flow out easily through a hole of the filtration device.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 11, 16 and 18 are allowable. Claims 12-15, 17 and 19, which depend from independent claims 11, 16 and 18, are allowable because independent claims 11, 16 and 18 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allows claims 11-19.

35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Latour et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,849,102) and/or Friedman (U.S. Patent No. 4,715,955). Applicants have amended claims 11, 16 and 18. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In light of the arguments discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent claims 11, 16 and 18 are patentable over the reference cited by the Examiner.

Since the independent claims 11, 16 and 18 are patentable because they overcome the Examiner's rejections to Friedman, as discussed above, this amended independent claims 11, 16 and 18 and dependent claims 12-15, and 17 overcomes the Examiner's rejections also based on Latour et al. because Latour et al. does not overcome the arguments discussed above. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 11-19 as amended.

Conclusion

Claims 11-19 are patentable. Therefore, in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Appl. No. 10/531,786
Amendment dated December 8, 2008
Reply to Office action of September 8, 2008

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 11-19.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being uploaded to the United States Patent and Trademark Office using the Electronic Filing System on December 8, 2008.

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